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Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice: ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism

Technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress made in 2014 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular by its Terrorism Prevention Branch, in supporting Member States with the ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism. The report also highlights key achievements of the Branch in delivering technical assistance on the legal and criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism while responding to emerging challenges and the evolving needs of Member States. The report concludes with a set of recommendations, including on the need for enhanced support to meet those challenges, for consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the activities undertaken during 2014 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in particular its Terrorism Prevention Branch, in providing assistance to Member States with regard to implementing the international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism.

2. In 2014, UNODC, through the Branch, further enhanced its provision of technical legal assistance and capacity-building to Member States to advance the ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism.

3. The mandate of UNODC on technical assistance in counter-terrorism was reiterated by the General Assembly in the following resolutions: 68/187, on technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism; 68/193 and 69/197, on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical assistance capacity; 68/276, on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review; 68/119 and 69/127, on measures to eliminate international terrorism; and 68/178, on protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

4. The Terrorism Prevention Branch, with its three geographic sections, has continued to prove its effectiveness by ensuring a greater focus on the implementation of the UNODC mandate regarding terrorism prevention from a regional perspective. UNODC headquarters has continued to provide leadership and strategic guidance to implement a coherent programme of activities throughout the world, focusing on substantive and specialized expertise and policy coordination. Field counter-terrorism experts, located in North and West Africa, Yemen, South and South-East Asia and Latin America, have continued to provide local expertise, as well as operational capacity, to support the implementation of UNODC counter-terrorism activities on the ground. Existing technical assistance tools were extensively utilized during 2014, and additional ones were developed in response to emerging challenges and the evolving needs of Member States. Enhanced cooperation with other branches within UNODC, in particular the Organized Crime Branch, as well as with entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, such as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, further promoted synergies, as well as joint project implementation.

II. Delivering technical assistance

5. The objective of UNODC counter-terrorism assistance is to strengthen legal and criminal justice responses by Member States to terrorism. This is achieved by the Office by: (a) promoting the ratification of the 19 international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism and assisting Member States with the incorporation of the provisions of those instruments into national legislation; (b) building the capacity of national officials to implement counter-terrorism legislation; and (c) promoting regional and international cooperation in criminal matters.

6. UNODC has continued to work closely with representatives and experts of recipient countries in order to set priorities for technical assistance and ensure a targeted delivery of assistance on the ground. To that end, UNODC has worked with permanent missions in Vienna, Geneva and New York, as well as with national counterparts in capitals, through broad consultations to ensure ownership of the programmes by recipient countries.

7. UNODC has also worked with the national authorities of requesting Member States on the development of technical assistance action plans and strategies on the legal and criminal justice aspects of counter-terrorism. In addition to assisting Member States to implement action plans developed in previous years, new action plans have been developed for Afghanistan, Algeria, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Morocco, the Philippines and Uzbekistan. Furthermore, UNODC contributed to the preparation of several regional and country programmes, including ones for Central Asia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

A. Technical assistance activities

1. Ratification and legislative assistance

8. In 2014, the Terrorism Prevention Branch continued to provide technical legal assistance to requesting Member States, supporting them with the incorporation into national legislation of the provisions of the international legal instruments. This work contributed to 23 new ratifications of those instruments by Member States and to the drafting, and in several cases adoption, of 12 pieces of counter-terrorism legislation.

9. A legislative review of proposed Nigerian civil aviation and other related agency draft bills took place in Abuja from 16 to 18 July, followed by a legislative workshop from 2 to 5 September. A further review is planned for 2015. Legislative drafting sessions were undertaken in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu from 28 April to 8 May. Advisory services on incorporation of the provisions of the international legal instruments into domestic legislation were provided to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Djibouti, Guatemala, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Namibia, the Philippines, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen.

2. Capacity-building to implement counter-terrorism legislation

10. In order to enhance the capacity of national criminal justice officials to apply the relevant legislation in their daily work that is fundamental to effectively preventing and combating terrorism, the Branch further strengthened its capacity-building work. It focused on further enhancing the knowledge and practices of national criminal justice systems with regard to investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating terrorism cases, as well as their capacity to cooperate regionally and internationally.

11. National, regional and international capacity-building workshops for criminal justice officials on a wide range of criminal justice related topics were organized for, inter alia, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, Egypt, India, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan,

the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Yemen. Overall, the Branch provided capacity-building assistance to 69 Member States, through 99 workshops at the national, subregional and regional levels, and trained more than 2,700 criminal justice officials.

12. In response to the increasingly complex nature of terrorism, the Branch continued to further develop and specialize its capacity-building training for criminal justice officials on a broad range of terrorism-related offences, taking into account emerging challenges. This assistance is meant to provide Member States with the specialized technical skills required to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases more effectively. Such technical assistance is an integral part of the national and regional training that UNODC provides to Member States, often done in close cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and partner organizations.

(a) Suppressing the financing of terrorism

13. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to enhance its legal and capacity-building assistance to counter the financing of terrorism. Specific initiatives were built around awareness-raising, institution-building and training at the national and regional levels. In 2014, these included:

(a) A regional workshop on cross-border cooperation related to counter-terrorism, its financing and other serious crimes, including illicit trafficking and smuggling, for countries of the Middle East, North Africa and the Sahel, held in cooperation with the International Institute on Justice and the Rule of Law in Valletta from 23 to 25 July;

(b) A subregional workshop for Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama on border control issues to prevent and combat terrorism and its financing, held in cooperation with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Guatemala City from 21 to 23 July;

(c) A subregional workshop to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism for Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, held under the Mesa de Coordinación on terrorist financing initiative of OAS in Guatemala City from 23 to 25 July;

(d) A subregional workshop to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism for officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, under the Mesa de Coordinación on terrorist financing initiative from 25 to 29 August in Santiago;

(e) Focused national-level workshops on countering the financing of terrorism, held in, among other places, Barbados (25-27 June), Colombia (3-7 February, 7-11 April, 9-13 June, 11-15 August, 6-10 October and 1-5 December), Egypt (28-30 April and 17-19 June), Guatemala (25-27 July), Jordan (for Iraqi officers, 26-28 May), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (7-9 July and 15-18 December), the Philippines (25-27 March), Solomon Islands (1 and 2 May), Vanuatu (5 and 6 May), Viet Nam (1-4 December) and Yemen (2-6 June).

14. UNODC and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre launched a two-year project, implemented by UNODC, which envisages the organization of

mock trials on the financing of terrorism for criminal justice officials in Argentina and Colombia. The project is aimed at enhancing their knowledge and technical skills in prosecuting and adjudicating terrorist financing cases.

15. In addition, in 2014, UNODC participated in a regional workshop of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on effective monitoring of alternative remittances to prevent terrorist financing abuse, held in Dakar from 17 to 19 March, and in the expert meeting on countering the financing of terrorism, organized by Bahrain on 9 November.

16. UNODC, through the Terrorism Prevention Branch, chairs the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force working group on tackling the financing of terrorism, with the goal of strengthening the cooperation and coordination of United Nations entities in supporting Member States in countering the financing of terrorism and promoting the implementation of relevant international standards. In these efforts, the Branch works closely with the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, as well as with relevant United Nations entities, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

(b) Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes

17. In response to the growing need of Member States for technical assistance related to the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, UNODC continued to further strengthen its capacity-building work aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of criminal justice officials tasked with handling complex terrorist cases involving the use of the Internet.

18. In this regard, the Branch continued to extensively and effectively utilize its technical assistance tool on the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes for its capacity-building activities.

19. The Branch organized national workshops, in Algeria from 16 to 19 June and Tunisia from 15 to 18 December 2014, on the use of special investigative techniques in the criminal investigation of digital communication channels. These activities have been developed by UNODC in close cooperation with national criminal justice and law enforcement agencies, namely the Cyberterrorism Group of the Guardia Civil of Spain and the Special Operations Group of the Arma dei Carabinieri of Italy. In collaboration with those entities, the Office organized study visits to Spain for Moroccan criminal justice officials from 24 to 28 February and for Algerian criminal justice officials to Italy and Spain from 19 September to 3 October. These study tours included visits to the premises of the Italian Carabinieri and Spanish Guardia Civil, as well as the demonstration of relevant methodologies and equipment used in the investigation of Internet-based terrorist offences.

(c) Countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism

20. In 2014, the Office continued to provide assistance to requesting Member States related to the ratification and implementation of the international instruments

dealing with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders.

21. UNODC organized a workshop for selected States in the Asia and Pacific region on the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which was held on 16 and 17 December in Bangkok. Recognizing the importance of cooperation and synergies in this area, UNODC invited, inter alia, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to contribute to the event.

22. UNODC has been working with Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia and the Philippines, as part of a consortium with the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control of Germany and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre, on a project on prerequisites to strengthening chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear national legal frameworks under the Centres of Excellence initiative of the European Union. In April and November 2014, UNODC took part in technical assistance visits of the consortium to the above-mentioned Member States to contribute to drafting new legislation and amending existing legislation for enhancing chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security in these beneficiary countries.

23. On 22 January and 25 November 2014, online sessions were delivered by the Branch, through its online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform aimed at promoting the prompt entry into force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

24. UNODC contributed to the regional dialogue for prosecutors on nuclear smuggling, organized by the Department of State of the United States of America and held in Tbilisi from 30 April to 2 May 2014.

25. In its capacity as an observer to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, UNODC participated in the meeting of the Implementation and Assessment Group of the Initiative held in Seoul from 1 to 4 July 2014.

26. UNODC also participated in the meetings of the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 25 to 27 February and in Berlin on 3 and 4 November 2014.

(d) Addressing transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences

27. Transportation is a key element in today's globalized world. Illegal acts against aircraft and ships, their passengers, cargo or crew, and airports and seaports represent a serious threat to global peace, security and development. The importance of addressing this growing threat is demonstrated by the fact that 12 of the 19 international legal instruments related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism have been adopted to address violent acts against international civil aviation and maritime navigation.

28. An effective legal regime and adequate criminal justice response measures are essential to prevent and counter terrorist acts and serious criminal offences against means of transportation. However, many States have not yet ratified the maritime

and aviation-related conventions and protocols. Moreover, the capacity of criminal justice officials to implement these standards needs to be further strengthened.

29. In many countries, criminal justice officials lack the specialized expertise required to effectively prosecute and adjudicate unlawful acts committed against the safety of air and maritime navigation, and fixed platforms located on the continental shelf, as well as acts of violence against persons onboard an aircraft, vessel or a fixed platform.

30. To this end, UNODC developed a counter-terrorism legal training module on transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences, which analyses and explains the application of the provisions of these instruments to assist policymakers with the ratification of these instruments, especially the international instruments relating to maritime security (adopted in 2005) and civil aviation (adopted in 2010 and 2014). It is intended to assist Member States in incorporating the related international legal provisions into national legislation and in supporting criminal justice officials with the effective implementation of those provisions. The module has been developed in consultation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

31. In 2014, UNODC and the Branch participated in the following ICAO and IMO events: (a) an ICAO legal seminar on the Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft of 1963, held in Singapore on 6 and 7 February; and (b) the ICAO diplomatic conference to adopt a draft Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, held in Montreal, Canada, from 31 March to 3 April. On 29 and 30 April, a UNODC representative participated in the 101st session of the Legal Committee of IMO in London and presented the module on transport-related terrorism offences to Member States.

(e) Assistance and support provided to victims of acts of terrorism and the criminal justice response in support of such victims

32. In 2006, by adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly resolution 60/288), Member States acknowledged for the first time that the provision of support and assistance to victims of terrorism was an important component of an effective terrorism prevention strategy. The Assembly reaffirmed that position subsequently in resolutions 64/168, 66/178 and 68/187. In response, in 2014, the Terrorism Prevention Branch further strengthened its assistance to requesting Member States in building their legal and judicial capacity to address the needs of victims of terrorism during criminal justice proceedings.

33. Building upon its training tool on the criminal justice response to support victims of acts of terrorism, launched in 2011 to help Member States strengthen the implementation of legislation and policies that support and protect victims of terrorism, the Branch organized several technical assistance activities in 2014. Jointly with Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Branch held two workshops on strengthening national legal frameworks for the protection and support of victims and witnesses of terrorism. The first, for South Asian States, was held on 15 and 16 September in Kathmandu; the other, for Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, was held on 24 and 25 June in Abu Dhabi. In addition, the following activities at the national level were undertaken:

(a) Two national workshops on strengthening the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan regarding the support and protection of victims of acts of terrorism, held in Kabul from 24 to 26 February and Bishkek from 25 to 27 November;

(b) A national training workshop for Morocco on the protection of witnesses in terrorist cases, held in Rabat on 6 and 7 March;

(c) A national workshop for Bangladesh on strengthening national legal frameworks for the protection and support of victims and witnesses of terrorism, held in Dhaka on 25 and 26 August;

(d) A national workshop on strengthening national legal frameworks for the protection and support of victims and witnesses of terrorism for Nepal, held jointly with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in Kathmandu on 11 and 12 September.

34. In addition, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/187, the Branch has commenced the preparation of good practices, in close coordination with Member States, on assistance to and support for victims of terrorism, including the role of victims within the criminal justice framework. In this regard, the Branch organized, in collaboration with the Global Counterterrorism Forum, an expert group meeting on the development of good practices relating to support for and assistance to victims of acts of terrorism, held in Vienna on 24 and 25 November. The meeting brought together experts from Member States and representatives of civil society and victims associations, as well as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and provided the information that will serve as the basis of a report which is currently being written and is expected to be published in 2015.

(f) Reinforcing human rights in criminal justice responses to terrorism

35. UNODC technical assistance activities in counter-terrorism are aimed at reinforcing the principle that effective counter-terrorism measures and respect for the rule of law and human rights standards are complementary and mutually reinforcing goals, as mandated in several General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 60/288, on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and subsequent resolutions on that subject, as well as resolution 68/178, on protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

36. UNODC fully integrates international human rights norms and standards into all aspects of its work, including when providing legislative assistance and capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States.

37. To reinforce efforts in this regard, UNODC recently completed the development of a module on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism, in close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The module was extensively used in the relevant capacity-building activities of UNODC and will contribute to enhancing the ability of national law enforcement and criminal justice training institutions worldwide to effectively deliver training on the human rights aspects of preventing and combating terrorism.

38. UNODC has been implementing a project component on strengthening national capacity to apply human rights norms, standards and good practices in countering terrorism.

39. In 2014, the Branch organized several national and regional training workshops focused on respecting human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism, some of them under the above-mentioned project, including:

(a) Three national training workshops for Kenyan criminal justice officials on human rights in the investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences, held in Nairobi (25-27 February, 23-27 June and 25-27 November);

(b) Three national workshops on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism for Nigerian criminal justice officials, held in Abuja (11-14 March, 15-17 July and 16-19 September);

(c) A regional workshop on challenges and good practices in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of criminal offences used as part of a proactive or preventive criminal justice approach to terrorism: international cooperation and human rights, held jointly with the Global Counterterrorism Forum in Kuala Lumpur on 9 and 10 September.

40. UNODC also cooperates with other organizations in promoting compliance with human rights during the investigation and prosecution of terrorism offences. For example, the above-mentioned national workshops for Kenya were organized in cooperation with the Security Sector Programme of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In addition, UNODC provided a trainer for an IGAD regional workshop on human rights and counter-terrorism, held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 30 September to 2 October.

41. Furthermore, the Branch organized a train-the-trainers workshop for its staff members in Vienna on 8 and 9 December, drawing on expertise from OHCHR and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to strengthen their skills relating to the incorporation of human rights aspects related to counter-terrorism into technical assistance delivery.

(g) Addressing emerging challenges

42. In June, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/276, in which it encouraged Member States, inter alia, to address several emerging challenges related to countering terrorism, including in areas such as foreign terrorist fighters

and kidnapping for ransom by terrorists. In that resolution, the Assembly noted with appreciation the activities undertaken in the area of capacity-building by UNODC and encouraged United Nations entities to provide assistance to Member States to help them to fully implement their respective international obligations to combat terrorism. The Security Council, in its resolution 2133 (2014), strongly condemned incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups. Furthermore, the Council adopted resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, in which it called upon Member States to join in efforts to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

43. To respond to these emerging challenges, UNODC organized, jointly with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and in cooperation with the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, a Mediterranean regional counter-terrorism expert workshop on "Terrorist kidnapping and hostage-taking: enhancing the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism", held in Valletta on 16 and 17 September. The Branch also participated in the special meeting of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee on kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, held in New York on 24 November, as well as in the side event on capacity-building hosted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on the same topic.

44. On foreign terrorist fighters, the Office, in close coordination with the European Union, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, has been considering ways to address the criminal justice aspects of this issue. In this regard, and upon the request of Member States, the Branch has developed a five-year technical assistance initiative aimed at supporting national and regional efforts in the Middle East, North Africa and the Balkans to strengthen legal frameworks and criminal justice capacity, as well as to enhance and facilitate regional and international cooperation, both at the operational and the judicial level. This new project will be launched at an interregional workshop to be held from 24 to 26 March 2015. Upon request, this initiative may be expanded to other regions.

(h) Developing technical assistance tools

45. Since its establishment in 2003, the Branch has developed several technical assistance tools, such as practical guides, handbooks, manuals and counter-terrorism legal training modules, which it has used as an integral part of its capacity-building activities. Most of these tools are available in the six official languages of the United Nations, and many have been translated into other languages as well.

46. In 2014, the Branch launched three new technical assistance tools to prevent and combat terrorism and its financing: (a) the *Guide for Colombia on the Legal Regime against Terrorism and Its Financing*; (b) a case management tool for conducting criminal investigations of the financing of terrorism; and (c) the Observatory of Jurisprudence.

47. The modules on transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences and the human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism, which are

an integral part of the Branch's counter-terrorism legal training curriculum, have been extensively utilized for capacity-building activities. The Branch has also made extensive use of its publications entitled *The Criminal Justice Response to Support Victims of Acts of Terrorism* and *The Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes*, launched in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

48. The Office has also continued to use, in its training activities, the mock trial on terrorism, terrorist financing and linkages to serious related crimes, as well as simulated criminal investigation tools. It has also commenced the implementation of those tools in other regions and countries.

49. The online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform, launched by UNODC in 2011, continued to be extensively utilized for capacity-building training. The Platform is an interactive tool specifically designed to provide tailor-made training to criminal justice and law enforcement officials in terrorism prevention. In 2014, the Branch delivered two five-week national online courses. In addition, 15 live events were carried out by the Branch, training 157 practitioners worldwide.

50. The Branch continued to further develop its Electronic Legal Resources on International Terrorism database (see www.unodc.org/tldb), which contains the national counter-terrorism legislation of over 150 Member States, the texts of international legal instruments and their ratification status, a list of counter-terrorism conventions adopted by regional organizations and relevant case law.

(i) Providing technical assistance in close cooperation with national training institutions

51. The Terrorism Prevention Branch continued strengthening its partnerships with national training institutions to further promote professional legal training on counter-terrorism issues and the creation of counter-terrorism legal training curriculum modules for integration into the training curricula of those institutions.

52. The Branch organized eight workshops during which national trainers were trained: (a) a subregional train-the-trainer workshop for selected trainers from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal, held in Dakar from 7 to 9 May; (b) a national workshop in Nouakchott from 15 to 17 April during which five trainers were trained; (c) a national workshop in Niamey from 18 to 21 March during which three trainers were trained; (d) two national train-the-trainer workshops on criminal justice responses to terrorism, held in Yemen from 30 March to 3 April and from 27 to 30 April, to prepare officials to act as trainers at the High Judicial Institute, the Police Academy and the Diplomatic Institute of Yemen; (e) two national train-the-trainer workshops, held jointly with the National Police Academy of India in Hyderabad, India, from 14 to 18 July and from 10 to 12 November; (f) a national train-the-trainer workshop on countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism investigations, held from 1 to 4 July in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. In December, the Branch also agreed to partner with the Higher Institute of the Judiciary of Tunisia to develop, in 2015, a train-the-trainers module on countering terrorism and terrorism financing for the Institute's training curriculum.

53. In 2014, UNODC cooperated with the newly established International Institute on Justice and the Rule of Law. From 23 to 25 June, the Branch and the Institute

jointly held a regional workshop in Malta on cross-border cooperation related to countering terrorism financing and other serious crimes for countries from the Middle East and North Africa, Sahel and Gulf regions. On 11 and 12 December, UNODC organized a study visit for a delegation of senior Tunisian criminal justice officials to Malta to meet with Institute representatives and explore the potential for future cooperation.

54. The Branch also cooperates with several national institutions, by participating in their events or inviting them to participate in its events. For example, the Branch and the Judiciary Training Institute of Kenya provided substantive expertise at the workshop for judicial officers on counter-terrorism law and procedures in the context of the constitution and international human rights law, organized by the Institute in Nairobi on 30 May.

3. Strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to counter-terrorism

55. The Branch continued to effectively support Member States to strengthen their cooperation in criminal matters by establishing mechanisms to help facilitate requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition, which play an essential role in the prosecution of terrorist cases that transcend national borders.

56. In 2014, the Branch provided the following technical assistance:

(a) A series of national workshops on various aspects of international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, for Egypt from 23 to 25 September, Ethiopia from 17 to 19 March, Iraq from 27 to 30 October, Kenya from 14 to 16 October, Morocco on 9 and 10 April and Namibia from 4 to 6 March;

(b) A subregional training workshop on international cooperation in criminal matters relating to terrorism cases for Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, held in Dakar from 2 to 4 December;

(c) A regional workshop, in the context of the joint project with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on the building of effective central authorities for international judicial cooperation in terrorism cases, organized by UNODC and implemented jointly with the League of Arab States (LAS) for countries of the Middle East and North Africa region on building effective international cooperation by central authorities, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 22 to 24 January;

(d) A regional conference, co-organized by UNODC with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and OSCE, for Eastern European countries, aimed at building effective central authorities for international judicial cooperation in terrorism cases, held in Vilnius from 25 to 27 November.

57. Through the Online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform, the Branch delivered three online courses on international criminal cooperation as a key tool in the fight against terrorism and other transnational crime: one for Algeria (held from 12 September to 17 October), one for Nigeria (held from 7 November to 12 December) and one for South Asian Member States (held from 7 November to 19 December), as well as five live events on international criminal cooperation in terrorism cases. Most of these online activities were delivered jointly with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

58. UNODC continued to provide ongoing support and technical assistance for strengthening the regional judicial platform for the Sahel countries, established in 2010 with the participation of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger. This network of national focal points continued to prove its effectiveness in cooperating to facilitate extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. The 5th annual meeting of the regional judicial platform was held in Bamako from 17 to 20 November and was marked by the accession of Senegal as a new member. Based on this successful experience, UNODC also developed a regional network of prosecutors and central authorities for members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Mauritania.

B. Partnerships

59. Partnerships with entities of the United Nations system and subregional, regional and international organizations have contributed to enhanced coordination and cooperation in the delivery of technical assistance to Member States, including through joint implementation of several projects.

1. Participation in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

60. The Terrorism Prevention Branch actively participates in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which brings together 34 United Nations entities and INTERPOL, thus ensuring that its counter-terrorism work is carried out in the broader context of United Nations system-wide efforts.

61. UNODC also implemented a project funded by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre related to conducting workshops on mock trials on the financing of terrorism in Argentina and Colombia.

62. The Branch participated in the thematic working groups of the Task Force and contributed to their activities. Following the reorganization of the working groups in June 2014, the Branch assumed the role of Chair of two working groups: those on tackling the financing of terrorism and on legal issues and criminal justice responses to terrorism. UNODC also co-chaired the working group on border management and law enforcement. In addition, it actively contributed to the working groups tasked with the following: supporting and highlighting victims of terrorism; preventing and responding to attacks involving weapons of mass destruction; protecting critical infrastructure, vulnerable targets, the Internet and tourism security; and protecting human rights while countering terrorism. The Branch also participated in the working group of the whole on national and regional counter-terrorism strategies, and participated in the workshop on developing a regional counter-terrorism strategy for Southern African countries, held in Harare from 5 to 7 November, as well as in the ad hoc working group on foreign terrorist fighters.

63. UNODC participated in the regular coordination meetings of the Task Force, as well as its annual retreat, briefings to Member States, United Nations-European Union policy dialogue, review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and related side events, in addition to several events led by the Task Force, including: (a) a global expert meeting on building capacity for terrorist designations and asset-freezing regimes, held in New York on 13 and 14 May; (b) a workshop on the role of the United Nations in addressing conditions conducive to the spread of

terrorism in the context of the post-2015 development agenda debate, held in Manhasset, New York, on 7 and 8 April; and (c) the second international conference on engaging partners for capacity-building: United Nations collaboration with counter-terrorism centres, held in Brussels on 21 and 22 October.

2. Cooperation with Security Council bodies dealing with counter-terrorism

64. The counter-terrorism work of UNODC is carried out in close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate. The entities have different, but complementary and mutually supportive, mandates. The Committee and its Executive Directorate are in charge of monitoring implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), identifying technical assistance gaps and facilitating technical assistance, while the Terrorism Prevention Branch is the key entity in the United Nations system delivering criminal justice capacity-building assistance related to countering terrorism to Member States.

65. During 2014, UNODC participated in assessment visits by the Committee to Member States. The Committee and its Executive Directorate, in turn, provided guidance on countries in need of assistance and participated in UNODC activities, providing briefings on the role of the Committee and the priorities identified in Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and subsequent resolutions. UNODC participated in visits of the Committee to Uruguay (13-15 May), Mongolia (26-30 May), Malta (8-10 October 2014), Sri Lanka (28-31 October), France (4-6 November), Chad (8-10 December) and the Philippines (10-12 December).

66. On 25 April 2014 in New York, at a high-level open briefing for Member States, upon the invitation of the Chair of the Committee, the Executive Director of UNODC briefed Member States on the activities of UNODC to prevent and counter terrorism.

67. UNODC took part in several activities of the Committee and its Executive Directorate, including (a) an Executive Directorate workshop on effective monitoring of alternative remittances to prevent terrorist financing abuse (Dakar, 17-19 March); (b) the eighth Executive Directorate regional South Asia counter-terrorism workshop (Singapore, 15-17 April); (c) an Executive Directorate national workshop on effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) (Nairobi, 7-9 May); (d) the second Executive Directorate regional workshop on bringing terrorists to justice (Nairobi, 22-24 October); (e) the Security Council special event of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with Member States on kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups (New York, 24 November); (f) the ninth regional South Asian workshop for judges, prosecutors and police (Male, 2-4 November); and (g) a practitioners' seminar on challenges in prosecutions related to foreign terrorist fighters (Valletta, 15-17 December).

68. UNODC and the Executive Directorate, in their respective capacities, cooperated in the implementation of the following technical assistance joint projects: (a) strengthening the capacity of countries in South Asia to support and protect victims and witnesses in terrorism cases (completed in 2014); (b) building effective central authorities for international judicial cooperation in terrorism cases (completed in 2014); (c) a project of the European Union, UNODC and the Executive Directorate on effective counter-terrorism investigations and prosecutions

while respecting human rights and the rule of law in the Maghreb and in South Asia; and (d) a partnership of Nigeria, the European Union, UNODC and the Executive Directorate on strengthening criminal justice responses for multidimensional security (terrorism).

69. Cooperation continued with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and its Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, as well as with the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and its Group of Experts. Experts from the Monitoring Team participated in workshops of the Branch, as relevant, and provided expertise on issues related to the implementation of Council resolution 1267 (1999). UNODC participated in several activities related to the implementation of Council resolution 1540 (2004), including a regional workshop for Central Asian States on its contribution to regional and global disarmament and non-proliferation, held in Astana on 11 and 12 March, and a regional workshop on implementation of Council resolution 1540 (2004) for Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), held in Seoul on 27 and 28 October. UNODC has responded positively to several requests for assistance from Member States related to the implementation of Council resolution 1540 (2004) that were transmitted by the Committee established pursuant to that resolution.

3. Partnerships with other organizations

70. In order to enhance the effectiveness of its technical assistance activities, the Branch continued to work with several regional and international partners: the Commonwealth, the Financial Action Task Force, IAEA, ICAO, the International Development Law Organization, IMF, the International Organization for Migration, INTERPOL, IMO, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, OHCHR, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the World Bank. It also continued to work with a large number of regional and subregional partners, such as the African Union, ASEAN, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Caribbean Community and its Common Market Secretariat, the Centre on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the Council of Europe, the Economic Community of Central African States, ECOWAS, the European Union and Eurojust, the Indian Ocean Commission, IGAD, the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the International Law Enforcement Academy, the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, LAS, the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, OAS and its Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, OSCE, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre, the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre, the Southern African Development Community, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism and the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

71. Throughout 2014, UNODC further strengthened its technical cooperation with the European Union and engaged in regular policy dialogue. The Chief of the Branch briefed the European Union Council Working Group on Terrorism on 14 November in Brussels, and participated in two meetings of the United Nations-European Union political dialogue on counter-terrorism, held on 9 June and 20 October in New York and Brussels, respectively. He also participated in the European Union-UNODC meeting of senior officials on 1 December in Vienna. In addition, the European Union and UNODC partnered in several capacity-building projects aimed at strengthening the criminal justice capacities of Member States to prevent and combat terrorism in Nigeria, North Africa and South-East Asia.

72. Coordination and cooperation with OSCE on activities in European and Central Asian countries was further strengthened throughout 2014. UNODC cooperated with the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit on the organization of several activities, including the international conference on criminal justice responses to terrorism held in Tel Aviv, Israel, from 10 to 12 November. UNODC also participated in several OSCE initiatives, including a conference on the role of OSCE in addressing current terrorist challenges, held in Interlaken, Switzerland, on 28 and 29 April, and a Global Counterterrorism Forum-OSCE national training workshop on strengthening criminal justice responses to terrorism that are compliant with the rule of law, held on 22 and 23 October in Nicosia.

73. The Branch also closely cooperated with the Council of Europe, attending meetings of its Committee of Experts on Terrorism held in Strasbourg in May and November.

74. As part of its ongoing cooperation with IAEA, UNODC was part of several IAEA events, at which UNODC made presentations on the legal aspects of nuclear terrorism and further promoted the international conventions and protocols related to nuclear security. These activities included a regional workshop on facilitating adherence to and implementation of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, held in Mexico City from 8 to 10 April; an international seminar on the promotion of the entry into force of that Amendment, held in Vienna on 12 and 13 June; and a national workshop on the Amendment, held in Belgrade on 2 July. In addition, UNODC also attended the 7th and 8th information exchange meetings on nuclear security, held by IAEA in Vienna on 8 May and 5 November.

75. UNODC continued to partner with INTERPOL in the development and delivery of online activities through the UNODC Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform, as well as in the delivery of specialized expertise during capacity-building activities. The Office participated in several activities of INTERPOL, including its global security and counter-terrorism convention, held in Sydney, Australia, from 28 to 30 January, and the INTERPOL training session on countering nuclear smuggling, held in Dushanbe from 21 to 23 July.

76. The Office and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of OAS enjoy a strong partnership in the Americas. They jointly organized, with the Mesa de Coordinación on terrorist financing initiative of OAS and the coordination group of the secretariats of the Branch, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism-Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and the Financial Action Task Force of South America

against Money Laundering, two regional capacity-building activities in the area of countering terrorist financing, held in Guatemala City from 23 to 25 July and in Santiago from 25 to 29 August. UNODC also substantively contributed to events of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism and was part of the fourteenth regular session of the Committee, held in Washington, D.C. on 20 and 21 February.

77. There continued to be close collaboration with ASEAN in the context of the UNODC South-East Asia subprogramme on partnership on criminal justice responses to terrorism. In South Asia, cooperation continued with the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism.

78. The Branch is working closely with the African Union and its African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, which support and complement one another in the delivery of counter-terrorism assistance for countries in Africa. The Branch also works in close partnership with the IGAD Security Sector Programme in developing and delivering assistance to IGAD member countries in Eastern Africa.

79. UNODC participated in the sessions and working groups of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, in particular those on capacity-building in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, the rule of law and criminal justice, and in the newly established group on foreign terrorist fighters. The Branch also participated in the 5th meeting of the Forum's Coordinating Committee and its ministerial session that took place on 22 and 23 September. In addition, the Branch organized regional capacity-building workshops jointly with the Forum, including a regional workshop for South-East Asian countries on challenges and good practices in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of criminal offences used as part of a proactive or preventive criminal justice approach to terrorism, held in Kuala Lumpur on 9 and 10 September. On 7 and 8 July, UNODC hosted the second Forum expert meeting on protecting and using intelligence information in investigations and prosecutions led by the criminal justice sector and based on the rule of law. On 15 October, UNODC facilitated a Forum briefing for Vienna-based permanent missions to the United Nations.

80. UNODC also strongly cooperates with the Hedayah centre, based in Abu Dhabi, and the International Institute on Justice and the Rule of Law. Several technical assistance activities were jointly organized with these two institutions in 2014, and more than five national and regional events were planned to be organized in partnership with the International Institute in 2015.

4. Cooperation with donors and recipients

81. In order to ensure that national and regional terrorism prevention programmes are tailored to national needs and take into account regional context, the Branch ensures full country ownership of such programmes and broad-based partnership and coordination for the implementation of its activities. To ensure this tailored approach, the Branch, including through its network of field offices, is in regular contact with the permanent missions in Vienna, Geneva and New York and ministries of foreign affairs, justice and interior, and carries out extensive consultations.

82. UNODC is most grateful to its donors for their invaluable substantive and financial support. As of December 2014, pledges and contributions had been made

by the following Member States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States. Pledges and contributions had also been made by the following organizations: Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, European Union, IMO, INTERPOL, International Organization of la Francophonie, Indian Ocean Commission, OSCE, Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, Verification Research, Training and Information Centre and Folke Bernadotte Academy (total contributions reached more than $74 million).

83. Several Member States also supported the Branch through the participation of their national experts in its technical assistance activities.

C. Monitoring technical assistance activities and assessing their impact

84. Measuring and assessing the relevance and impact of its activities are key priorities of the Branch aimed at ensuring that the technical assistance provided is targeted to the needs and priorities of requesting Member States and is effective and sustainable.

85. Following each one of its legal and capacity-building activities, the Branch collects and analyses feedback questionnaires from recipients of technical assistance. The reports are helpful for programme managers to assess the relevance of the assistance provided in relation to the work and needs of recipients, identify areas where further assistance is needed and thereby improve future programming and maximize the impact of the assistance delivered.

86. Strong results-based management and reporting tools have helped the Branch to demonstrate measurable results. To date, the Branch has been using several tangible indicators, such as the increase in the number of States assisted by UNODC becoming parties to the international legal instruments, the number of assisted countries drafting legislation and the number of national officials trained.

87. In addition, during the second half of 2014, the Global Project on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism undertook an in-depth independent evaluation, led by the UNODC Independent Evaluation Unit and to be finalized in early 2015. It is expected that the evaluation will provide additional feedback from stakeholders, as well as concrete guidance in terms of the efficiency, efficacy, relevance and sustainability of the project, and identify lessons learned and good practices for improved continued implementation and future policymaking and planning.

III. Priorities of the Terrorism Prevention Branch for 2015

88. In 2015, the Branch will continue to enhance its legal technical assistance and capacity-building assistance to Member States aimed at preventing and countering terrorism, upon their request. In particular, the Branch will continue to support

Member States with ensuring the incorporation of the provisions of the international legal instruments into national legislation, as well as promote ratification of the 19 international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism, particularly those with a low level of ratification or those which have not yet entered into force, including the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft.

89. The Branch will also continue to focus on developing and implementing tailored country-specific, long-term capacity-building assistance programmes and ensure that they respond to the needs of Member States, including by addressing new emerging challenges. The Branch will reinforce its efforts to develop further thematic knowledge and delivery tools, such as through its technical publications, its modules under the Counter-Terrorism Legal Training Curriculum and the web-based online training platform.

90. Human rights will continue to be taken into account in the planning and development of project proposals and in the implementation of projects, including by reiterating the importance of respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law as an integral part of all effective programmes to prevent and suppress terrorism.

91. The monitoring system of the Branch will continue to be strengthened, so as to ensure the effectiveness of UNODC technical assistance activities by measuring the impact of such activities on beneficiaries in relation to knowledge and skills gained and relevance to their work.

92. In addition, the Branch will continue to ensure cost efficiency and transparency with donor Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies, further strengthen communication with Member States and factor in their guidance and views in fine-tuning ongoing country-specific and regional projects.

93. Finally, the Branch intends to further strengthen cooperation with offices within UNODC, with the other United Nations counter-terrorism entities and with international and regional organizations in order to avoid duplication and ensure synergies in the delivery of technical assistance.

IV. Recommendations

94. The Commission may wish to express gratitude to donor countries for the voluntary contributions made available to UNODC and to invite Member States to increase the level of extrabudgetary and regular budget resources to enable the Office to continue to implement its work in the area of terrorism prevention.

95. The Commission may wish to encourage those Member States which have not yet done so to accede to and/or ratify, as well as fully implement, the 19 international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism, with assistance from UNODC as needed.

96. The Commission may wish to invite Member States to avail themselves of the capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC in order to build the capacity of

criminal justice officials to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases.

97. The Commission may wish to encourage Member States to increase international and regional cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism by developing formal and informal mechanisms to assist with requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition.

98. The Commission may wish to encourage Member States to utilize the capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC to strengthen their criminal justice systems, including with regard to new emerging threats such as foreign terrorist fighters and kidnapping for ransom.

99. The Commission may wish to provide further guidance with regard to the technical assistance work of UNODC on the criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism, in terms of both content and delivery mechanisms, with a view to better tailoring the assistance to the evolving needs of Member States.